

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 JUSE-00 ARA-10 SEC-01

TRSE-00 SCA-01 ( ISO ) W

----- 023802

O 241459Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 307

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BERN 0849

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, PINT, SZ

SUBJECT: PRESS ON CIA CONNECTION WITH VESCO AND IOS

1. TODAY'S HERLAND TRIBUNE CARRIES AP ITEM DATED WASHINGTON, FEB 23, HEADLINED "CIA AGENT ASKS SWISS TO RELEASE VESCO." ASSUME ITEM AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT. SAME AP ITEM IS CARRIED BY TRIBUNE DE GENEVE HEADLINED "INTERVENTION OF THE CIA IN THE AFFAIRS OF GENEVA JUSTICE?" HEADLINE ALSO STATES THAT, ACCORDING TO A "TOP SECRET" DOCUMENT, A CIA AGENT IN SWITZERLAND AT THE REQUEST OF JOHN MITCHELL FACILITATED RELEASE OF ROBERT VESCO. IN ADDITION TO RUNNING THE AP ITEM, TRIBUNE DE GENEVE ALSO SPECULATES THAT CIA MAY HAVE COME TO VESCO'S ASSISTANCE BECAUSE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE PUSHED CORNFELD TO SELL IOS TO VESCO. CONDENSED VERSION AP STORY ATTRIBUTED TO AFP APPEARED IN JOURNAL DE GENEVE. STORY HAS NOT YET APPEARED IN GERMAN LANGUAGE PRESS. 24 HEURES WHICH, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WAS HIGHLY SATIRICAL CONCERNING AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE DOMINICK'S ALLEGED REMARKS CONCERNING OVERFLIGHTS, CARRIES FOLLOWING EDITORIAL BY THEO BOUCHAT: "CIA IN SWITZERLAND, WHERE IS THE TRUTH? DID THE CIA (THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE) REALLY INTERVENE IN BERN TO HAVE THE AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE ROBERT VESCO FREED

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WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED NOV 31, '71 IN GENEVA AND ACCUSED OF

SEVERAL FINANCIAL MISDEMEANORS RELATED TO THE DIFFICULTIES  
OF IOS, THE GIANT MUTUAL FUND?

THE AMERICAN AGENCY, ASSOCIATED PRESS, BELIEVES IT IS  
ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS, THIS WEEKEND, ON THE BASIS OF A  
CONFIDENTIAL REPORT WRITTEN BY A CIA AGENT REFERRING TO AN  
APPROACH MADE TO MR HANS WLDER, THE THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OF THE CONFEDERATION.

NEVERTHELESS A DOUBT EXISTS THE DOUBT IS NOT ABOUT  
THE APPROACH ITSELF, WHICH IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED FACT, BUT THE  
DOUBT CONCERNS WHO MADE THE APPROACH. ASKED YESTERDAY BY  
24 HEURES, MR. HANS WLADER CONFIRMED THAT HE RECEIVED A  
TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT  
HE DENIED ANY CONTACT WITH THE CIA.

HIS STATEMENT SUPPORTS ESSENTIALLY THE INFORMATION  
RECEIVED BY THE CANADIAN, ROBERT HUTCHISON WHO, AFTER  
TWO YEARS OF RESEARCH, MADE THE MOST COMPLETE INVESTIGATION  
PUBLISHED TO DATE CONCERNING ROBERT VESCO'S ROLE IN THE  
IOS AFFAIR.

RIGHT AFTER THE ARREST OF VESCO, ACCORDING TO HUTCHISON,  
ONE OF HIS AIDES, NAMED HARRY SEARS, AN INFLUENTIAL REPUBLICAN  
FROM NEW JERSEY, WHO WAS BOTH A FRIEND OF VESCO AND OF JOHN  
MITCHELL, THEN MINISTER OF JUSTICE, TELEPHONED MITCHELL.  
MITCHELL TELEPHONED RICHARD VINE, COUNSELOR OF THE UNITED  
STATES EMBASSY IN BERN, AND ASKED HIM TO USE ALL THE PRESSURE  
POSSIBLE WITH THE SWISS AUTHORITIES TO HAVE VESCO IMMEDIATELY  
RELEASED. WHY SO MUCH PRESSURE? BECAUSE VESCO HAD BEEN VERY  
"GENEROUS" TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF RICHARD NIXON, AND  
HELPING HIM TO GET OUT OF PRISON WAS THE LEAST OF SERVICES  
WHICH COULD BE RENDERED TO HIM.

IT WAS THEN THAT THE APPROACH TO HANS WALDER WAS MADE.  
WHO MADE THE APPROACH? DID VINE MAKE IT, OR A REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE CIA ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY? MR. WALDER DOESN'T  
REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO SPOKE TO HIM. HE SIMPLY  
REMEMBERS HAVING SAID "THIS IS NOT WITHIN MY COMPETENCE BUT  
IS A MATTER FOR GENEVA JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES."

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THE NEXT DAY VESCO AND TWO OF HIS ACCOMPLICES, ONE OF  
WHOM WAS SWISS, WERE FREED ON BAIL. DID THE EMBASSY INTERVENE  
DIRECTLY WITH THE GENEVA JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES? THERE IS  
NOTHING TO SUPPORT THIS.

VINE AND THE MYSTERIOUS AGENT OF THE CIA, COULDN'T  
THEY BE THE SAME PERSON? THAT'S POSSIBLE. IN ANY CASE,

IT WAS TO VINE THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF IOS, MONSIEUR KING, WAS GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO TURN OVER A PACKAGE A LITTLE WHILE LATER. IN HIS FIRST TESTIMONY, MONSIEUR KING STATED THAT THE PACKAGE CONTAINED \$20,000 FOR SERVICES RENDERED, BUT HE RETRACTED THIS STATEMENT AND AFFIRMED THAT THE PACKAGE DIDN'T CONTAIN ANYTHING OTHER THAN DOCUMENTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT VINE TO BETTER PLEAD THE CASE OF VESCO, WHO WAS ALREADY OUT OF JAIL, WITH SWISS AUTHORITIES. ASKED IN THE UNITED STATES BY A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, VINE (WHO BY THE WAY DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE "WHO'S WHO OF CIA) DENIED HAVING RECEIVED ANY MONEY.

ACTUALLY THE EXACT IDENTITY OF THE PERSON WHO INTERVENED WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOESN'T MEAN VERY MUCH. IT'S THE APPROACH ITSELF WHICH REVEALS AMERICAN METHODS. IF IT IS NORMAL THAT A COUNTRY CONCERNS ITSELF THROUGH THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE SITUATION OF ITS CITIZENS ABROAD, THIS SORT OF AMERICAN PRESSURE HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE.  
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O 241459Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 308

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BERN 0849

AS TO THE ROLE OF THE CIA IN SWITZERLAND, CIRCLES WHICH ARE INITIATED DON'T TRY TO HIDE THINGS. THEY ARE CERTAIN THAT THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MAINTAINS SEVERAL AGENTS ON SWISS SOIL. THEIR ACTIVITIES,

IT IS SAID, ARE LESS CONCERNED WITH SWITZERLAND ITSELF  
THAN WITH THE NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN PERSONALITIES,  
OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ETC.

SWISS INTELLIGENCE SERVICES (PRINCIPALLY MILITARY) ARE  
IN CONTACT WITH THEIR FOREIGN "COLLEAGUES" AND, IN PARTICULAR,  
AMERICANS. SINCE THE FAMOUS DUBOIS AFFAIR, THESE CONTACTS  
ARE NO LONGER WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BUT WITH THE  
CHIEF OF FEDERAL PLICE WHO IS ALSO THE CHIEF OF THE "SECURITY  
DIVISION" OF THE GENERAL STAFF.

CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL PLACED TO KNOW THE RECORD  
PERIODICALLY ARE CONCERNED AT THE "DEPENDENCE" OF INTELLIGENCE  
SERVICES OF SWITZERLAND ON WESTERN SERVICES, A "DEPENDENCE"  
WHICH THE TWO MIDDLE EAST WARS ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE MADE  
EVIDENT.

WHEN IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE  
CONSTITUTES THE BASIS OF POLITICAL DECISIONS WHICH FOLLOW  
FROM THAT INFORMATION, ONE CAN UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS  
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WHICH CERTAIN PEOPLE HAVE, BUT IT WOULD BE UTOPIAN TO BELIEVE  
THAT THE VESCO AFFAIR COULD INITIATE A DEBATE ON THIS MATTER.  
THERE ARE DOSSIERS WHICH ARE REALLY SECRET - UNTIL THE DAY  
COMES WHEN THEY BLOW UP.  
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